

Helpful Geography Terms

Change Over Time: Modifications in human and physical environments resulting from the workings of geographic and historical processes.

Cultural Landscape: The forms and artifacts sequentially placed on the natural landscape by the activities of various human occupants. By this progressive imprinting of the human presence, the physical (natural) landscape is modified into the cultural landscape, forming an interacting unity between the two.

Diffusion: The spatial spreading or dissemination of a culture element [such as a technological innovation] or some other phenomenon [e.g., a disease outbreak].

Human Environment Interactions: The ways that people depend on, adapt to, are affected by, and change the natural environment.

Human Livelihoods: People obtain the necessities and the comforts of life through participation in three sectors of activity: (1) Primary sector (agriculture, mining, forestry), (2) Secondary sector (industry), (3) Tertiary (services).

National Character: Overtime, countries and nations take on representative cultural features that define them locally, regionally, or nationally, and collectively distinguish them from others.

Origin: The point or place from which something arises, comes, begins, or develops; the starting point or place.

Physical Systems: The physical processes that shape the patterns of the Earth's surface and the characteristics and spatial patterns of ecosystems on Earth's surface.

Sense of Place: Places are parts of earth's space, large or small, that have been endowed with meaning by people. A sense of place takes two forms: (1) the distinctive character of a place that results from the physical characteristics of the

place or the place's association with significant events, and (2) the attachments that people develop for places through experience, memory, and intention.

Spatial Distribution: The arrangement of physical and human elements on the Earth's surface.

Spatial Interaction: The movement of people, goods, information and money between and among regions, countries and places.

Spatial Organization: The way in which physical and human elements on the Earth's surface are structured.

Spatial Variation: How one place is different from another, deviation in form, condition, appearance, extent.